---: URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF VENTNOR :---

REPORT of the MEDICAL OFFICER of HEALTH for the year 1919.

To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council of Ventnor.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you my first Annual Report on the health of the town of Ventnor.

The town of Ventnor is situated on the south of the Isle of Wight, and on the east of St. Catherine's Point.

The district comprises an area of over 780 acres, the whole consisting of very undulating ground rising to a height of 690 feet above sea level, at the back of the town.

The highest ordance level is on the north of the District, on St. Boniface Down, and is 690 feet; while the lowest is near the southern boundary and is 18 feet.

The sub-soil consists of various clays, chalk and ragstone.

For the erection of new buildings and alteration to existing buildings, plans are required to be submitted to the Council, and these when in accordance with the building bye-laws are approved, inspection being made by the Surveyor's Department of the foundations, concrete over site, &c., and the building during erection.

The social conditions of the inhabitants of the Town are, on the whole, good, the chief occupations being the building trade and apartment letting. There are no occupations likely to be a source of danger to the public health.

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The social conditions of the inhabitants of the Town are, on the whole, good, the chief occupations being the building trade and apartment letting. There are no occupations likely to be a source of danger to the public health.

Gratuitous medical relief provided by a trained nurse under the Ventnor Nursing Association is taken advantage of to some extent by the poorer community of the Town.

POPULATION.

The returns of the Census taken in 1911 gave the population as 5787, and the number of inhabitated houses as 1302 thus giving an average of 4.4 persons per inhabitated house. In estimating the population in the middle of 1919, I find the number of inhabitated houses from the rate books is given as 1438 and the estimated population is therefore 6327.

BIRTHS.

Forty births were registered during the year, 20 male and 20 female, (3 of which were illegitimate), as against 36 last year, corresponding to the birth rate per 1000 of population of 8.58. The Registrar General's official figures of population for the purposes of birth rate are 4.719.

DEATHS.

Eighty eight deaths were registered in Ventnor during the year, 23 of which were of persons not strictly belonging to this district, and 8 deaths occurred outside the district of persons belonging thereto. These being located give a total of 73 deaths, the death rate being per 1000 therefore 16.10.

The deaths of those occurring in other Districts and allotted to Ventnor were as follows:-

Redhill	1
Southsea	1
County Hospital, Ryde..	2
Carisbrooke	2
London	2

The following tables give summaries of mortality as to ages and diseases.

Gratuitous medical relief provided by a trained nurse under the Ventnor Nursing Association is taken advantage of to some extent by the poorer community of the Town.

POPULATION.

The returns of the Census taken in 1911 gave the population as 5787, and the number of inhabitated houses as 1303 thus giving an average of 4.4 persons per inhabitated house. In estimating the population in the middle of 1919, I find the number of inhabitated houses from the rate books is given as 1438 and the estimated population is therefore 6327.

BIRTHS.

Forty births were registered during the year, 20 male and 20 female, (3 of which were illegitimate), as against 38 last year, corresponding to the birth rate per 1000 of population of 8.38. The Registrar General's official figures of population for the purposes of birth rate are 4.719.

DEATHS.

Eighty eight deaths were registered in Ventnor during the year, 83 of which were of persons not strictly belonging to this district, and 8 deaths occurred outside the district of persons belonging thereto. These being located give a total of 73 deaths, the death rate being per 1000 therefore 15.10.

The deaths of those occurring in other Districts and allotted to Ventnor were as follows:-

Bedhill	1
Southsea	1
County Hospital, Ryde..	3
Carisbrooke	3
London	3

The following tables give summaries of mortality as to age and diseases.

TABLE 1 Mortality as to age.

	MALES	FEMALES.
Under 1 year	1	0
1 to 5 years	nil	nil
5 to 15 "	1	1
15 to 25 "	5	1
25 to 45 "	11	3
45 to 65 "	15	8
65 and upwards	19	22

TABLE 11 Mortality as to disease.

	MALES	FEMALES.
Influenza	3	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis... ...	11	4
Cancer	4	7
Organic Heart Disease	4	8
Bronchitis...	2	4
Pneumonia (all forms)	3	2
Other Respiratory diseases ...	1	1
Cirrhosis of Liver	1	0
Nephritis and Bryght's Disease.	2	3
Other defined diseases... ...	17	10

The number of Deaths in Ventnor is considerably augmented by persons coming to reside in the District for the sake of their health. Twelve at least of the 22 deaths from Tuberculosis last year were of such persons. The official figures of population of the Registrar General for the purposes of Death Rate are 4,530.

DEATHS OF INFANTS.

The deaths of Infants under one year was 1 the cause of which was Pneumonia.

The death rate per 1000 births was .25.

ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

From the seven chief Zymotic Diseases, as enumerated by the Registrar General, i.e. smallpox, measles, scarlet fever, diphtheria, whooping cough, fever and diarrhoea; no deaths occurred.

TABLE I Mortality as to age.

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Bronchitis...	2	4
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Other Respiratory diseases ...	1	1
Cirrhosis of Liver	1	0
Nephritis and Bright's Disease.	2	3
Other defined diseases... ...	17	10

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From the seven order Zymotic Diseases, as enumerated by the Registrar General, i.e. smallpox, measles, scarlet fever, diphtheria, whooping cough, fever and diarrhoea; no deaths occurred.

SCARLET FEVER.

No cases during the year as against one in the previous year.

DIPHTHERIA.

Four cases were notified during the year against none in 1918. Ahl were removed to the Isolation Hospital.

ERYSIPELAS.

One case was notified during the year as against none the previous year.

ENTERIC FEVER.

No cases were notified during the year as against none the previous year.

MEASLES.

9 cases were notified as against 23 in the previous year.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Seventeen cases of Pulmonary Tubercolusis were notified during the year. There were 22 deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis. Twelve at least of the deaths from phthisis were of persons who had come to reside in the District on account of their health, i.e. who had contracted the disease elsewhere.

On receipt of a notification of a case of tuberculosis the house is visited, particulars noted, disinfectant and sputum bottle supplied if required, and literature giving instructions as to prevention of infection, etc., is distributed. Disinfection of premises is carried out after death or removal when known,

There was no prevailence of particular acute infectious diseases during the year. Particular attention was paid in this respect during the Small Pox epidemic on the North side

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No cases during the year as against one in the previous year.

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There was no prevalence of particular acute infectious disease during the year. Particular attention was paid in this respect during the Small Pox epidemic on the North side

of the Island during June. The cause of all the cases of principal infectious disease which occurred, was through visitors bringing the infection from other Districts. Particular attention was also paid to the Slaughterhouses during the prevalence of Foot and Mouth Disease on the North Side of the Island.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT, 1901.

These have been visited and inspected throughout the year, and various defects have been remedied.

The bakehouses, w orkshops, dairies, and cowsheds have also been visited and inspected.

The tables showing details of the work done by the Sanitary Inspector will be found below.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

There are only one or two small streams in the District all being spring water flowing from under the Downs to the Sea. No pollution of these exists.

WATER SUPPLY.

The District is served by the Ventnor Water Company who give a constant supply to the lower levels and an intermittent supply to the higher levels of the town. (About a ¼th of the total houses). The water has been subjected to Bacteriological and Chemical Analysis by the Royal Institute of Public Health and the following are copies of their Reports.

REPORT FROM THE BACTERIOLOGICAL LABORATORIES.

of THE ROYAL INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC HEALTH.

EXAMINATION OF A SAMPLE OF WATER.

Name of Sender: D.V. Howard Esq., Town Surveyor, VENTNOR.
Date received: 9/9/19.
Particulars on label: House Tap. Direct on Main.
The Sample was packed in ice.

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EXAMINATION OF A SAMPLE OF WATER.

Name of Sender: D.V. Howard Esq., Town Surveyor, VENTNOR.
Date received: 9/9/19.
Particulars on label: Horse Tap. Direct on Main.
The Sample was packed in ice.

QUANTITATIVE ENUMERATION, OF BACTERIA.

On Gelatine Plates, kept for 4 days at 21° c, could not be determined owing to the liquefaction of the gelatine by the tempr. conditions prevailing at the time of the test.

On Agar Plates, kept for 24 hrs. at 37° c Nil Colonies per 1 c.c. developed.

EXAMINATION FOR SPECIAL BACTERIA.

B. Coli absent from 100 c.c.

RESULT OF EXAMINATION

Judging from the above figures this water yields satisfactory results.

(Signed) WILLIAM R. SMITH.

M.D. (principal).

REPORT FROM THE CHEMICAL LABORATORIES, OF THE ROYAL INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC HEALTH.

CERTIFICATE OF ANALYSIS OF A SAMPLE OF WATER.

Name of Sender: Ventnor U.D.C., Isle of Wight.
Date received: 9/9/19.
Particulars on Label: Public Supply.

Physical Characters:

Reaction: Alkaline.
Colour in two feet stratum: Pale Blue.
Suspended matters: Small amount of inorganis matt
Taste:
Odour when warmed to 37° c: Nil.

Chemical Characters:	Parts per 100,000	Grains per gallon.
Total solids dried at 100° c	40.60	28.42
Loss on ignition (after re-carbonating)..	3.60	2.52
Chlorine	4.20	2.94
" x 1.647=sodium Chloride	6.91	4.83
Nitrites	Nil	Nil
Nitrogen as Nitrates ...	0.20	0.14
Saline Ammonia	Nil	Nil
Albuminoid Ammonia. ...	0.002	0.0014
Oxygen absorbed in 3 hrs. at 37 c	0.02	0.014
Hardness-Total	22.80	15.96
" Temporary. ...	15.20	10.64
" Permanent. ...	7.60	5.32
Poisonous Metals-Lead ...	Nil	Nil
" " Copper..	Nil	Nil

REMARKS.

QUANTITATIVE ENUMERATION OF BACTERIA.

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REPORT FROM THE CHEMICAL LABORATORIES, OF THE

ROYAL INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC HEALTH.

CERTIFICATE OF ANALYSIS OF A SAMPLE OF WATER.

Name of Sender: Ventnor U.D.C., Isle of Wight.
Date received: 8/9/19.
Particulars on Label: Public Supply.

Physical Characters:

Reaction: Alkaline.
Colour in two feet stratum: Pale Blue.
Suspended matters: Small amount of inorganic matter.
Taste:
Odour when warmed to 37°c: Nil.

Chemical Characters:	Parts per 100,000	Grains per Gallon.
Total solids dried at 100°c	40.60	28.42
Loss on ignition (after re-carbonating)	3.50	2.52
Chlorine	4.20	2.94
" x 1.647=sodium Chloride	6.91	4.83
Nitrites	Nil	Nil
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Poisonous Metals-Lead	Nil	Nil
" " Copper.	Nil	Nil

REMARKS.

REMARKS.

From a consideration of the above water, no exception can be taken to the use of this water for domestic purposes upon Chemical grounds.

(Signed) WILLIAM R. SMITH M.D.

(PRINCIPAL).

The water is obtained by gravitation from headings driven into the S. Boniface Down and that required for supplying the higher levels of the Town is pumped to a Storage Reservoir, situated on Littleton Down and supplied to houses therefrom by gravitation.

FOOD INSPECTION.

Frequent inspection has been made of premises where food is exposed for sale or is in course of preparation, and some unsound food has been destroyed during the year as is shown by the Sanitary Inspector.s tables.

In no case has it been found necessary to proceed to ligitation.

ADOPTIVE ACTS AND BYE-LAWS.

The followign bye-laws and regulations are in force within the District:-

1	Bye-laws for New Streets and Buildings	made	25th May 1869
2	" " " " "	"	6th Nov.1893
3	" " Driving Cattle through Streets	"	1st July1895
4	" " Removal of Shingle from Sea-shore	"	1st July1895
5	" " Nuisances and Noxious Matter	"	1st July1895
6	" " Foot paths Cleaning etc.	"	1st July1895
7.	" " New Buildings	"	8th Aug.1898
8	" " Hackney Carriages	"	5th June1899
9	Regulations with respect to Cowsheds, Dairies etc.	"	19th June1899
10	Bye-laws for New Buildings	"	6th Nov.1899
11	" " Slaughter-houses	"	-- 1903
12	" " Prohibition of Burning Garden Refuse	"	8th Jan.1906
13	" " Use of foreshore	"	14th Dec.1914
14.	" " Boats, Boatmen and Vessels	"	14th June1915
15	" " Public Bathing	"	14th June1915

Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act	1890
Private Street Works Act	1892
Small Dwellings Acquisition Act	1899
Local Government Act	1894 (Appointment of Oversee
Public Health Acts, Amendment Acts	1907
Part 11 Secs. 34 - 48., 43 - 49	of Part 111, Secs 52 - 65
of Part 1v, Secs 79 and 81 - 85	of Part v11, Parts v111,
1x and x.	
Ventnor Local Board Act	1884

REMARKS.

From a consideration of the above water, no exception can be taken to the use of this water for domestic purposes upon Chemical Grounds.

(Signed) WILLIAM R. SMITH M.D.

(PRINCIPAL).

The water is obtained by Gravitation from Headings driven into the S. Montrose Down and that required for supplying the Higher Levels of the Town is pumped to a Storage Reservoir, situated on Littleton Down and supplied to houses therefrom by Gravitation.

FOOD INSPECTION.

Frequent inspection has been made of premises where food is exposed for sale or is in course of preparation, and none unsound food has been destroyed during the year as is shown by the Sanitary Inspector.s tables.

In no case has it been found necessary to proceed to Litigation.

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Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act 1890
Private Street Works Act 1892
Small Dwellings Acquisition Act 1899
Local Government Act 1894 (Appointment of Overseer
Public Health Acts, Amendment Acts 1907
Part II Secs. 24 - 46., 43 - 49 of Part III, Secs 58 - 65
of Part IV, Secs 79 and 81 - 85 of Part VII, Parts VIII,
IX and X.
Ventnor Local Board Act 1884

The Public Health Acts Amendment Act 1890, and the Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909, are in force within the District, both of which contain very many useful clauses, which will prove of benefit.

Practically all the houses of the Town are drained into the Council's sewers, the sewerage is then conveyed by the water carriage system to three different outfalls and discharged into the sea. Only about 12 houses are drained into the cess-pools, it is impossible, owing to the formation of the ground, to connect these to the sewers.

No complaints with regard to the sewerage system or disposal of sewerage were received during the year. The whole of the 34 flushing tanks on the system were thoroughly over-hauled and put into working order, and a twice weekly system of flushing same brought into operation during the year. For the months of June, July, August and September this flushing is done three times weekly at each tank. Owing to the hilly nature of the District all the sewers have good gradients.

The cesspools are emptied as required, at night time, and the contents tipped into the sea at ebb tide.

WATER CLOSET &c. ACCOMMODATION.

There are no privies within the District and all the houses are provided with water closets, which generally speaking, are kept in a very clean and sanitary condition.

About 100 of these W.C.'s are not provided with flushing cisterns and in October your Works Sanitary and General Purposes Committee resolved that steps should be taken to compel this provision in these cases. This is now in hand.

SCHOOLS.

The following Schools are within the District.

Longdown Girls @@@ 113 scholars

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SCHOOLS.

The following schools are within the District.

Longdown Girls	113 scholars

St. Wilfred's	@@@	60 scholars.
Council Schools	@@@	210 "
National (Infants)	@@@	50 "
" (Boys)	@@@	136 "
Lowtherville (Infants)	@	44 "

The sanitary condition of the and water supply to, all the above satisfactory.

MILK SUPPLY.

Taken throughout the year the milk supplied in the District is, generally speaking, whole-some and satisfactory. It is noticeable however that during the months of July, August and September, when there is a great influx of visitors to the Town, that the quality appreciably lowers. The Sanitary Inspector suggests to me it would be advantageous if the County Council arranged for their Food Inspector to take more surprise samples for analysis during those months.

The Milk (Expectant and Nursing Mothers) Order came into force at the end of the yeaf and will in certain cases be of assistance.

The administration of Dairies &c. Order is referred to in the Inspector of Nuisances Report attached. No action with respect to Tuberculosis Milk was found necessary during the year. Your Veterinary Officer inspected and reported upon to you with respect to Cows and Cowsheds in the District but as the major portion of the Milk retailed therein is imported from Districts where such inspection is not undertaken, the full value of this work is not obtained.

OTHER FOODS.

This matter is dealthwith in the Report of the Inspector of Nuisances, attached.

HOUSING.

The housing conditions of the town as a whole, are good,

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HOUSING.

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and at present are not occupied to their full capacity. The Inspector of Nuisances includes in his Report a paragraph on this matter giving details of work done. No houses were considered to be unfit for human habitation during the year and no representations for closing orders. No cases of overcrowding were brought to light.

There was not a great deal of building of new working class dwellings done during the year, but private enterprise began to open up in this direction during the closing months, and the supply exceeds the demand.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.

Ample modern Isolation Hospital accommodation is provided at the Isolation Hospital on the northern boundary of the District. Two wards are here provided with nurses and caretakers quarters, which are all spacious, and well kept standing in about four acres of ground with the resident caretaker and nurse. A modern ambulance for the removal of patients is also provided. This Hospital is under the management of the Joint Hospital Committee and is most efficiently administered.

In conclusion, gentlemen, I desire to express my very warmest thanks to the Town Surveyor, Mr. D. V. Howard, for the valuable assistance he has rendered me, during the past year.

I am, gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

REGINALD T. COOKE,
M.B.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Medical Officer of Health.